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## QUILTS

Ethnic Studies  
is like a piece of quilting:  
swatches of ethnicity, cultures, community,  
gathered and organized from remnants of history.

Colorful cultures and dispossessed people,  
by some labelled heathens  
their histories previously  
tattered or torn or destroyed.

'Til Ethnic scholars  
and radicals recaptured lost moments  
reconstructed memories attentively  
through alternative non-traditional resources.

Used perspective(perspicuous) needles of oral histories  
to deconstruct the colonized past,  
re stitched and restored the myths and legends,  
requilted a sense of identity, purpose and pride.

Ethnic Studies was born of the 60's revolution,  
blacks struggling for self-determination  
seeking new heroes and patterns,  
creating pluralistic paradigms of meaning.

Rhythms of minorities  
in customs of cultures, in accents of energy,  
improvisations, atonal and synchopated,  
resistance proclaimed.

Rhythms in memory,  
shared themes of unshackling,  
rejecting the legacies of domination,  
the pain and exploitation.

Imagine and estimate  
the energy wasted in perennial suffering,  
through corruption and poverty,  
the energy gained by taking a stand.

Ethnic Studies is  
a multi-ethnic ethos,  
new ethics, esthetics, sewn side by side,  
evolving to imprint the bleached blank fabric.

Once powerless people  
lift up their diversity, celebrate difference,  
perspicuous message, divergence not threatening,  
leave dominance behind.

Ethnic Studies, the spectrum emerges:  
a coalition, dominion of people united  
of colors like rainbow, the vanguard of politics  
a hope for the future, a thrust toward truth.

Patches of colors  
blacks, browns, yellows, reds, whites,  
tones of the earth no longer divided  
connected sub rosa by threads of tomorrow

An "eth" is a suffix  
an accent to action  
an end and beginning  
a threshold to consciousness.

An ethnic, a peacenik,  
a communic, collective  
correcting, committing  
we shouting and singing our many kudos.

Ethnic Studies is  
retelling, demanding,  
demonstrating, upstanding  
affirming our moments in actions, in history.

The quilt at the center  
is the sun of the ancestors  
the past for the future  
together we stand.

We surge like a circle  
new patterns emerging  
with symbols of liberation  
ancient as myths.

To examine the quilt  
calls for deep cogitation  
of the vortex of suffering,  
assimilation and humiliation.

Ethnic analysis of race and of class  
the synthetic fabrics of our society,  
reveals the basic squares lacking  
of freedom, equality and justice.

And thus we continue  
to piece together patches,  
to build on the patterns,  
we champions of difference.

As teachers and lab leaders,  
students and community members,  
we weave the treasured threads of togetherness  
toward a place called home.

We expand the patchwork in Ethnic Studies,  
restore the old and create new designs  
our colorful covers of cooperative efforts,  
for the quilts of tomorrow, the youth, the dreams.

Ethnic Studies is like quilting  
paradigmatic protection for our growth.

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